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FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0137  
INFO RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY 0112  
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 2904  
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY 0072  
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT PRIORITY 5040  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1107  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 2242  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0986  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 2986  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1040

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000125

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SENSITIVE

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, EEB  
STATE PLEASE PASS TO USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [ETRD](#) [PREL](#) [TX](#) [XD](#)  
SUBJECT: SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE FROM TURKMENISTAN ON HOSTING 2008  
CENTRAL ASIA TIFA

REF: STATE 1132

11. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

12. (SBU) Turkmenistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on January 23 responded by diplomatic note to refotel demarche on preparing for the 2008 Central Asia TIFA meeting, stating that Turkmenistan "suggests holding the United States-Central Asia Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Council meeting in Turkmenistan at the end of June of this year." During a follow-up call to the Ministry, the Director of the Americas Desk said that Turkmenistan definitely wants to host and described its diplomatic note response as a "firm offer."

13. (SBU) COMMENT: While post believes that Turkmenistan is serious about wanting to host this year's TIFA meeting, we also believe that it has not yet discussed its intention with anybody other than the United States. If Tajikistan does want to host - and we have no reason to doubt it doesn't - it may be difficult to get the Central Asians to reach consensus on their own. We would suggest that Turkmenistan be given serious consideration as recognition that it has rejoined the family of nations, and that President Berdimuhamedov increasingly appears committed to regional integration. We would welcome Washington reaction and advice. END COMMENT.

HOAGLAND